

FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS - (FTAA)

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Open Invitation to Civil Society

Name of Organization:

Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM) *A Jamaican environment and development NGO registered as a non-profit limited liability company. We manage one of the three demonstration sites funded by the OAS-ISP programme (Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Environment and Sustainable Development Decision-Making in the Americas).*

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Title of Submission: *TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES SET OUT IN THE SAN JOSE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION: A Perspective based on Overview-of the Jamaican Situation*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Caribbean Coastal Area Management (CCAM) Foundation accepts the open invitation to present a point of view concerning the negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas.
2. CCAM's starting point is the San Jose Ministerial Declaration (1998) wherein Ministers expect the FTAA to:
  - improve the well-being of all our people
  - contribute to raising living standards, working conditions and better protect the environment;
  - create opportunities for full participation of the smaller economies and increase their level of development.
3. CCAM considers that Jamaica is one of the FTAA negotiating countries which qualifies as a smaller economy.
4. Based on an analysis of its exports and imports, it is felt that an FTAA:
  - offers no significant new market opportunities;
  - creates taxation revenue problems;
  - could have a negative effect on development of rural communities and small businesses.
5. However, development of the services sector has great potential, and negotiations should consider proposals such as movement of labour, money and technology to stimulate this.
6. Development of tourism (particularly nature tourism) offers immediate development potential and can also be the stimulus for solving some environmental problems.
7. CCAM makes various suggestions consistent with the spirit of the San Jose Ministerial Declaration:-
  - Further transparency of the negotiating process and inter-action with civil society is needed;
  - Case studies of specific countries to test the objectives of the San Jose Declaration should be prepared;
  - Creation of an integration/Development Fund to prepare smaller economies for participation in the FTAA.
  - Feedback between the FTAA negotiators and the Civil Society Groups making submissions should take place.